The project is flexible enough to include more States and UTs on the basis of need and merit.

Medium of Instruction for a Course Conducted by IGNOU

1656. SHRI RAMCHANDRAN PILLAI Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) since how long the Admission Division of the Indira Gandhi National Open University has been advertising in Natonal Dailies and announcing in the guide for applicants that medium of instructions for certificate in Food and Nutrition can be any one among the Languages such as Assamese, English, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Malayalam, Marathi, Punjabi and Tamil;

(b) when the university prepared the course material in Malayalam, Tamil, Kannada and Assamese for this course ;

(c) whether the university propose to send the course material to the candidates who opted Malayalam as medium of instruction during 1994 ; and

(d) if not, what steps the university intends to take to redress the grievances of the candidates who had joined the course ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINSTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT OF CULTURE (Km. SELJA) : (a) and (b) According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University launched the programme of Certificate in Food and Nutrition in the year 1988. Initially the programme was offered in Assamese, English, Hindi and Gujarati as the medium of instruction. Presently, the programme is being offered in five more languages, namely, Tamil and Malayalam since 1992, Kannada since 1993 and Marathi and Punjabi from 1994. The course material for the programme Certificate in Food and Nutrition was prepared in Assamese in 1988, Malayalam and Tamil in 1991 and Kannada in 1992.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Scholarship under National Talent Scheme

1657. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) when the amount of scholarship under National Talent Scheme was decided ;

(b) when Govt. are likely to increase the amount of scholarship, under this scheme;

(c) whether it is a fact that Govt. propose to link up this amount to price index; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT DEPTT. OF EDUCATION AND DEPTT. OF CULTURE (Km. SELJA) : (a) The amount of scholarship under National Talent Search Scheme was decided in 1977.

(b) to (d) The amount of scholarship is not linked with the Price Index In the cases where parent's income is more than Rs. 25,000/- per annum the awardee gets only 50% of the amount of the scholarship. No decision on increasing the amount of scholarship under the scheme has been taken by the Government of India.

Low Female Literacy Rate

1658. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high birth rate and high infant mortality rate are associated with low female literacy rates ;

(b) if so, the States which are with low female literacy;

(c) whether any time bound programme has been chalked out to improve literacy standards of females in these States ; and

(d) if so, the details there of ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE